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The Files

26 September 1961

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University of Virginia Research Laboratory, Facilities Inspection

1. The University of Virginia Research Laboratory was visited on 6 September 1961 for a facilities inspection. The visit was made in response to an invitation from Dr. Hugh S. Landis.
2. The Research Laboratory is located in the basement of Thornton Hall and is staffed by professors and graduate students of the School of Electrical Engineering in addition to the permanent employees. Those areas doing classified work for the Navy and Air Force were not visited for obvious reasons; however, Dr. Landis indicated that the work going on in those sections fell into the general categories of computers and gyroscopes. The section visited was devoted almost exclusively to work on ferrites. The techniques of determining the properties of over two hundred ferrite samples was of primary interest in that the microwave absorption technique has been used both on ferrites and crystals. This technique involves the same principles of magnetic spin resonance as is being used in the garnet preselectors for the CR-26 microwave receiver.
3. Most of the ferrite work being done at the Research Laboratory is in direct support of a Sperry project to develop an air bearing spherical ferrite gyroscope. In this application a precise determination of the free spin axis and the spin hysteresis is required. Both of these characteristics are being determined by measuring the period of a torsional pendulum supporting the ferrite spheres in a strong magnetic field.
4. The University has just established a Medical Electronics Research Group to work with the University Hospital Research Staff. The doctors finally conceded that they were not qualified to handle the instrumentation problems involved in the medical research program.

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SUBJECT: University of Virginia Research Laboratory, Facilities Inspection

5. Instrumentation for the Research Laboratory projects is usually borrowed from the various school laboratories. Model shop facilities are available in the School of Engineering machine shop.

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